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MEMORIAL

OF

COLONEL ANDREW WARNER

RECORDING SECRETARY OF
THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY

ROBERT HENDRE KELBY
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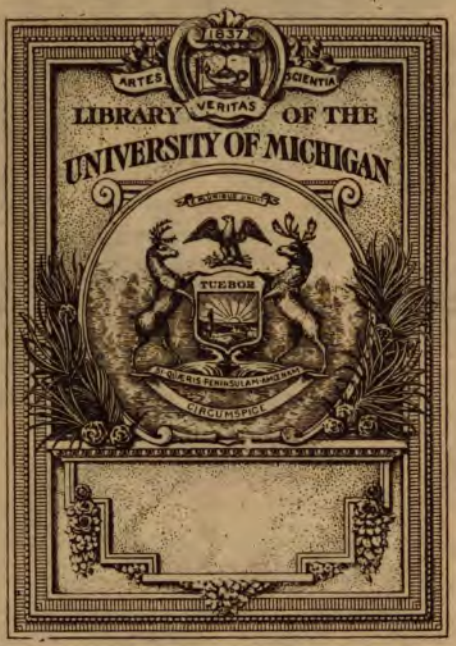

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A MEMORIAL

OF

COLONEL ANDREW WARNER

RECORDING SECRETARY OF THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1846-1849 1854-1899

BY

ROBERT HENDRE KELBY

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WITH AN APPENDIX OF PROCEEDINGS

NEW YORK

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY

1915

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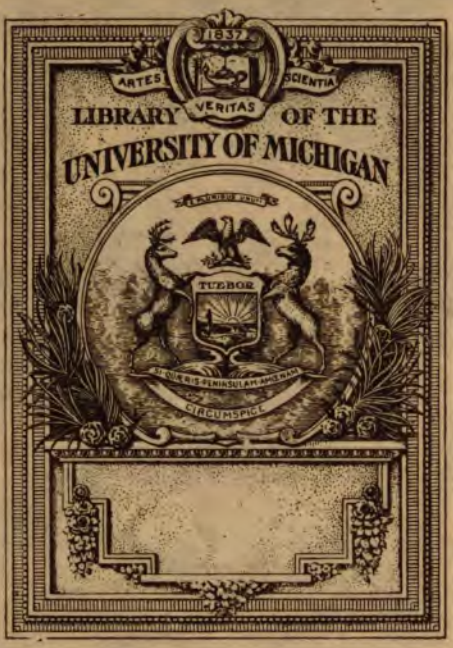

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COLONEL ANDREW WARNER.

BORN 1806, DIED 1899.

RECORDING SECRETARY 1846-49, 1854-99.

FROM THE ORIGINAL PORTRAIT PAINTED BY GEORGE A. BAKER, FOR THE SOCIETY, 1877.

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COLONEL ANDREW WARNER.

Andrew Warner, so long familiar to the older members of this Society as its unwavering and faithful friend, and for forty-nine years its Recording Secretary, died at his residence, 326 East Fifteenth Street, this city, February 26, 1899.

He was the son of Jacob Warner, born March 4, 1775, at Hesse Cassel, Germany, and Catharine Newell, born June 4, 1786, at Charlestown, Mass., whose sister was the mother of the late Hon. Daniel F. Tiemann, Mayor of the City of New York, 1858-1860.

Colonel Warner was born in this city, August 15, 1806, and married on June 4, 1827, Miss Anne Ryer, daughter of Henry and Eliza Ryer, of this city. She died in this city May 11, 1887, aged 76 years. His business career began at an early age in the Counting-Room of John Pintard, the founder of The New York Historical Society, and nephew of Elias Boudinot, President of the Continental Congress in 1780. When but eighteen years of age in 1824, Mr. Warner was a private in the New York State Militia, and took part in the reception given to Lafayette in this city.

The following year he became Lieutenant of the Seventh Company of the Seventh Regiment, at that time known as the Battalion of National Guards, and on October 19, 1825, Colonel Prosper M. Wetmore, of the First Brigade, N. Y. State Artillery, appointed

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Lieutenant Andrew Warner, of the Seventh Company as Adjutant of the Battalion.

In order that the Battalion of National Guards might be legally advanced to the dignity of a regiment, it was resolved to raise another company, and on the 10th of April, 1826, Lieutenant-Colonel Wetmore detailed the following officers to organize the new corps: Andrew Warner, Lieutenant of the Seventh Company and Adjutant, to be Captain; William H. Insley, First Lieutenant, and William P. Millard, Second Lieutenant. They entered upon their duty with great energy and industry, and on the 4th of May the requisite number of men having been enrolled, the new company was admitted to the battalion as the Eighth Company of National Guards. Thereupon De Witt Clinton, Governor of the State of New York, on May 6, 1826, issued the order making the Battalion into a regiment, to be known as the 27th Regiment of Artillery, now the Seventh Regiment.

At the January, 1826, meeting of the Board of Officers, Adjutant Warner was one of a committee of four appointed "to make necessary arrangements for procuring a standard to be embroidered for this battalion." On March 2, following, the committee made their report, and upon their suggestion employed the services of Mrs. Lloyd D. Windsor (wife of the veteran Principal of Public School No. 1) to execute the embroidery from the original design of Sergeant Asher Taylor, of the Fourth Company.

Captain Warner ended his services with the regiment on July 10, 1827, in consequence of a factional dispute in the regiment, which culminated in the resignation of Colonel Wetmore. Captain Warner's loyalty to the latter caused him to resign his captaincy.

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On leaving the employment of John Pintard, he entered the office of the County Clerk, and from 1832 to 1851, held the position of Deputy Clerk. During this time in 1836 he was admitted to the Bar in the Court of Common Pleas. With him were admitted Joseph S. Bosworth and Claudius L. Monell, both of whom later rose to distinction on the Bench.

Colonel Warner continued to take great interest in military affairs after severing his connection with the Seventh Regiment.

In 1834 the "Jefferson Guard" was organized. This was the first German military organization of its kind in the United States. The popularity of this organization among the German element of the city soon led to similar companies being organized, and within four years there had formed the "Jefferson Guard," "Jefferson Grenadiers," "Jefferson Rifles," "Jefferson Blues," and the "Washington Rifles." These five companies were consolidated to form the 38th Battalion, New York State Heavy Artillery, and placed under command of Colonel Andrew Warner June 12, 1840. Later additions to this Battalion were made, and the "Brooklyn City Guard," two companies at Peekskill, N. Y., one at Flatbush, one at Poundridge, and one at Staten Island being part of the organization which changed its name to the "38th Regiment, New York Artillery," Colonel Warner retaining command of the enlarged organization, which still was known as the "Jefferson Guard," and celebrated the birthday of Thomas Jefferson by going on parade.

At the time of the Mexican War the Regiment had 588, officers and men. On May 27, 1846, Colonel Warner issued orders that the Regiment should hold itself in readiness to be called to war, and to take up

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drilling in the manual of arms, which was immediately begun in Tompkins Square under his direction. However, the Regiment was not called for service, but took part in the celebration and parade in honor of the American victories in the Mexican War, held in this city on May 7, 1847.

On May 6, 1847, the out-of-town companies of the Regiment were detached from the original five companies, and on July 27, 1847, these local companies, known as the "38th Regiment of Artillery," were changed to the "5th Regiment, New York State Militia" and was so called until its disbandment in 1882.

Colonel Warner retained command of the Regiment until 1854, and took part in the parade in honor of President James K. Polk in this city, June 25, 1847, the funeral ceremonies of ex-President John Quincy Adams on March 8, 1848; the "Astor Place Riot," May 10, 1849; the ceremonies in honor of New York's dead in the Mexican War, November 15, 1849; the reception given to General Ludwig Kossuth on December 5, 1851, and various other parades of lesser importance.

On January 17, 1854, the 5th Regiment sustained a great loss in the resignation of Colonel Andrew Warner, who was a thoroughly competent and well beloved officer, and who by his twenty years of service in the militia of the State of New York rendered great service.

Colonel Warner's cultivated taste and excellent judgment in matters of art brought him in close connection with The American Art Union, which was incorporated in 1840, as "The Apollo Association," and in 1844 changed its name to "The American Art Union," and continued as such until 1853, when it ceased to exist. It was modeled upon the plan of certain soci-

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eties in Germany and Great Britain, which provided for the purchase of works of art and their annual distribution by lot. It was successful to an extraordinary extent, not only in the large amounts which it paid to artists and the wisdom with which it selected and encouraged several of them, such as Lautze, Woodville, Church, Eastman Johnson, and others, whose success, excepting for this aid, would have been delayed, if not materially checked, but also for its development among the public of a taste for art to a greater degree than any other institution up to that time had effected.

He was a member of the Committee of Management of The American Art Union from 1844 to 1853; Recording Secretary, 1842, 1843 and 1845, and Corresponding Secretary 1848 to 1853. His unfailing devotion to the interests of that institution brought an expression of appreciation of his services at their tenth annual meeting, held in the Broadway Tabernacle in the city of New York on Friday evening, December 22, 1848, Prosper M. Wetmore, President of the institution, presiding. Mr. Frederick A. Coe, reading the annual report of the Committee of Management, said:

"Upon the Corresponding Secretary has devolved a most extensive and laborious correspondence, not only with the Honorary Secretaries, but with isolated members, artists, and strangers, imposing upon that officer the severest mental and bodily toil. He has received during the year more than three thousand letters, and fully and suitably replied thereto, with nearly as many answers, notwithstanding the pressure of other avocations. The disinterested zeal and ever-active fidelity of that officer demand at the hands of this Committee far more than this public record of their appreciation of his self-sacrificing efforts; and in view of the fact that

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he declined the aid of a salaried assistant, and refused to receive any pecuniary remuneration for his invaluable services, the Committee have resolved, with the sanction of the members this evening, to acknowledge their sense of obligation to that officer in a mode more befitting and substantial than words. . . ."

On January 1, 1849, The American Art Union presented Colonel Andrew Warner a silver salver and two silver pitchers. The New York Historical Society has received from the estate of his daughter, the late Kate Warner, the above-mentioned silver.

In 1853, when the Legislature of the State of New York passed an act creating a Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas, Mr. Warner was selected as the first clerk. He held the office for only one year, when he resigned to become the cashier of the "Institution for the Savings of Merchants' Clerks." The following year he was made Secretary of the Institution in addition to being cashier, and in 1881 was elected President, which office he held until 1897, when he resigned on account of his advanced age. This institution since 1905 has been known as the Union Square Savings Bank, and is located at 20 Union Square, this city.

Colonel Warner was also actively associated with several benevolent institutions, whose interests he faithfully served without remuneration. In 1853 he was chosen Secretary of the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, and served in that capacity until 1868, when he resigned. The annual report of that institution for 1868 contains resolutions on his retirement adopted by the Board of Directors.

He was elected to the Board of Managers of the "Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents" in 1853, and served as Secretary from 1854 to 1880.

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In 1883 he was chosen Vice-President, which office he held one year. He retired from the Board in 1895, but from then until the time of his death he was a member of the Honorary Council of Former Managers.

In 1863 he was elected one of the Governors and Secretary of "The Society of the Lying-In Hospital of the City of New York," and served in that capacity until his retirement in 1892, and during part of which time he served also as Treasurer, 1882 to 1892. This institution, the earliest of its kind in this city, now occupies the block front on Second avenue between 17th and 18th streets.

The serious consequences of the draft riots in New York City, during the Civil War caused the authorities of both State and City to recommend in a Proclamation dated July 15, 1863, the organization of "Home Guards," for the purposes of self-preservation. Thereupon the residents of Stuyvesant Square and vicinity organized themselves into an association for that purpose on July 18, 1863, to be known as the "Stuyvesant Square Home Guard."

Among the subscribers to the Articles of that Association was Colonel Warner, whose residence at that time was at No. 171 East 15th street.

The first meeting of the residents near Stuyvesant Square was held on July 15, 1863, at the house of Mr. Edward Walker, 5 Livingston Place. Mr. Nicholas W. Stuyvesant was called to the chair, and Colonel Andrew Warner appointed Secretary. At that meeting measures were adopted to secure arms from the Government, and a watch established by the members as well as a signal alarm. It is recorded that Colonel Warner volunteered for the watch on the night of July 16, 1863, "and would sound the alarm if necessary."

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It does not appear from the minutes of the Association that the "Stuyvesant Square Home Guards" met with any violence from the rioting mobs. They continued as an organization, however, until 1865, meeting at various members' residences and in the Vestry Room of St. George's Church. Colonel Warner was elected President in 1864, having previously declined the office, and for a time held the meetings in his home.

Colonel Warner was one of the incorporators of "The Home for Disabled Soldiers," January 24, 1865; the preliminary meeting for the incorporation was held at the Hall of the Historical Society, corner of Eleventh street and Second avenue, on February 1, 1864. He was chosen a Trustee at the first meeting of the corporation, July 11, 1865, having acted as Secretary protem. previously.

He became a member of The New York Historical Society January 7, 1845. Elected Recording Secretary January, 1846; resigned October 4, 1850, owing to business pressure, but again took up the duties of that office, January 3, 1854, and continued as Recording Secretary until his death, February 26, 1899.

To whatever work Colonel Warner was engaged he devoted his whole heart and every energy he possessed. The New York Historical Society owes its present prosperity as much to his aids as to those of any person.

His only child, Kate Warner, died in this city August 14, 1913. On February 8, 1915, the Society received as a bequest of Miss Warner, the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars as a memorial of her father. This legacy has been designated as "The Colonel Andrew Warner Memorial Fund." The Society has placed on the desk so long used by him during his long service

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as Recording Secretary, a bronze memorial tablet inscribed as follows:

COLONEL ANDREW WARNER

BORN IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, AUGUST 16, 1806

DIED FEBRUARY 26, 1899

RECORDING SECRETARY

OF

THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1846—1849 1854—1899

THIS TABLET IS PLACED BY THE SOCIETY ON THE DESK USED BY HIM, AS A TRIBUTE TO AN OFFICER WHOSE ADVICE AND SOUND JUDGMENT CONTRIBUTED LARGELY TO THE PROSPERITY OF THE SOCIETY AND WHOSE INFLUENCE WAS ALWAYS EXERTED IN ITS BEHALF.——MDCCCCXV.

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APPENDIX

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

At a stated meeting of The New York Historical Society, held in its Hall on Tuesday evening, March 7, 1899, the President, Mr. John Alsop King, presented and read the following memorial minute of Andrew Warner, late Recording Secretary of the Society:

The Society is called upon to mourn the loss of its able and venerable Secretary, Colonel Andrew Warner, who died on February 26, 1899, beloved, honored and respected by all who had known him in his earlier days, his middle life and to the time of his decease, when he was in his ninety-third year, over four-score and ten years, and for forty-nine of which he had been a wise, faithful and intelligent Recording Secretary of this Society. He has served under and with Presidents Albert Gallatin, Luther Bradish, Frederic de Peyster, Hamilton Fish, Augustus Schell, Benjamin H. Field, and latterly with myself, and had confidential intercourse with all of them, and with the clever, learned and distinguished men who were officers and members of the Executive Committee, and under whose guidance had been the affairs of the institution for more than half a century. During that whole time, until in these latter days, precluded by physical infirmity, his was the signature attesting to the records and minutes of the Society's transactions and proceedings, and as the hand had signed so was the strong quick memory ready to recall the chief causes and reasons of action as taken from time to time since 1846.

Andrew Warner became a member of the Society January 7, 1845, and was elected Recording Secretary of the Society the following year. Owing to business engagements he resigned the office of Recording Secretary October 4, 1850. He was again elected Record-

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ing Secretary January 3, 1854, which office he held up to the time of his death, February 26, 1899.

It was fitting in recognition of his valuable and wise services that Andrew Warner should be specially remembered, and therefore the President begs to have the following minute upon its records:

Andrew Warner was the son of Jacob Warner, of German descent, and Catherine Newell, of Massachusetts. He was born in this city, 15th day of August, 1806, and was at an early age placed in the Counting-Room of John Pintard, one of New York's foremost merchants and financiers, and was also one of the founders of The New York Historical Society, the incorporation of which only antedates two years the birth of Mr. Warner. Under Mr. Pintard's training were developed the strong traits of character of firmness to principle, of exactness, thorough integrity and lucidity of thought and expression, which were preserved and pre-eminent throughout the future remarkable life of the young clerk. Doubtless from the prominent example of his chief, Warner then imbibed the love of books and of the humanities of life, and of the fine arts, to all of which he gave much subsequent attention. Before even leaving the counting-room, and whilst only eighteen years of age, he manifested those strong characteristics of intelligence, self-reliance, courage and patriotism which win the hearts of youthful and older associates, for with many of them he was enrolled as a private in the Second Regiment of the N. Y. S. M., and took part in the military reception given to General Lafayette, when he landed in New York in 1824. Young Warner, with others of his regiment, was personally introduced to the Marquis, and ever thereafter it was a pleasure that he was glad to remember and to recall.

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Tall in figure and determined, quick and active in disposition and body, he was at once appointed in 1825 by Lieut-Col. Prosper M. Wetmore to be an Adjutant-General of the 27th Regiment, then known as the Battalion of National Guards, and subsequently as the 7th Regiment.

He was in 1826 the Captain of the 8th Company, and in 1827, when he was twenty-one years of age, he became Lieutenant-Colonel of the 23d Regiment. Afterwards he commanded the 13th, and finally was made Colonel of the 5th German Regiment, holding that command until 1853. In all these years, notwithstanding his many other important occupations, his interest as an officer of the State Militia never flagged nor was neglected. In all other matters which he undertook, his zeal and vigor were apparent, and with his tall, soldierly figure and military bearing, he never failed to be conspicuous.

Exactly when he left Mr. Pintard's office we know not, nor do we know under what influences his mind was turned to the study of law, a profession which in those days required a very long apprenticeship; but, happily for him, he was in 1832 called to duty as a deputy in the County Clerk's office, a position held by him until 1851. But during leisure hours he, with his military duties and various other engagements, continued his legal studies, for we find that in 1836 he was admitted to the Bar in the Court of Common Pleas, having among his associates at that time Joseph S. Bosworth and Claudius L. Monell, both of whom later rose to distinction on the Bench, and with whom Mr. Warner always maintained the most agreeable relations.

In 1854 the Legislature passed an act creating a Clerk of the Common Pleas, and he was at once appointed to that office, but resigned the following year.

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In his intercourse with intelligent men during the twenty years of his connection with the County Clerk's office he must have formed many interesting and influential friendships.

Himself of strong ability and commanding presence and of unusual vigor and activity, well-informed, a student of history, a lover of the fine arts and science, and interested in all that was conducive to the power and progress of his native city, a military man and lover of order, and good government, and always to be found on the side of justice and liberty, such a person could not fail to attract the attention of good and wise citizens, who in recognizing his genial manner and sympathetic nature as well as his strong qualities, his patient assiduity to his business, and his virtuous life, his readiness to take part in works of benevolence and charity, sought to bring him to their aid and council, in their management of their philanthropic undertakings. Once chosen to their association, he was soon invested with office and became an untiring leader and sagacious manager, remaining with many of them thirty, forty and fifty years, and always was ready for duty.

In 1845 he was made a member of The New York Historical Society, and his ability and clear mind and business habits were at once so recognized as to lead the following year to his election as the Recording Secretary of the Society, which he occupied until his death. In 1848 he became the Corresponding Secretary of The American Art Union. No less notable his record in connection with charitable institutions, for he was forty years an active and esteemed manager of the House of Refuge; for thirty years one of the governors and treasurer of the Lying-In Hospital, one of New York's oldest institutions, and always managed by some of her best citizens. For a long time he was also Secretary of the Institution for the Instruction of the

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Deaf and Dumb. His was indeed a busy life and full of happiness and good work. Thus were his leisure hours occupied.

In 1854 the whole course of his life was changed. The suits of law were laid aside, and in their stead the education of the counting-room was brought afresh into place, and Mr. Warner with his great versatility of talent and knowledge was able quickly to assume the onerous duties of a new banking institution for the Savings of Merchants' Clerks.

His thoughts went back to the teachings of his early days, and upon a fitting invitation from such honorable merchants as composed the Board of Directors of this Institution, his generous and philanthropic impulses induced him to abandon the professional life in which he had labored so diligently that he might aid the large-hearted merchants in their notable work to teach thrift and economy in their habits to the young men in their counting-rooms, most of whom were afterward to become in their day, leaders in the mercantile community. From that day forth Mr. Warner felt that there was a large field of usefulness before him, and wherein he could employ his talents and zealous temperament to the advantage and healthy instruction of the young men who came into a large city ignorant to the temptations surrounding them, and to the allurements to frivolously squander their earnings upon unworthy objects. He had himself been a clerk and was cognizant of the difficulties constantly hindering to the proper use and care of a moderate salary. He well understood the purposes of the originators of this new institution, and he knew personally many of the foremost members and of their high and benevolent character. Working with and for them, he could aid in doing good to his fel-

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low beings, and though he might not have much money capital to contribute, he could and would give his knowledge and well directed industry and energy to further the successful working of the undertaking.

Neither the Board of Directors nor Mr. Warner ever regretted the one who had extended the invitation to him or to have accepted the office then offered to him in 1854. Mutual confidence continued to exist between them. The institution prospered, and its strength during many financial periods has never been impaired. His management has been scrupulously careful and sagacious, and Mr. Warner as Cashier, afterward Secretary, and then President, has left his strong impress upon its workings, as that of a man of high principle, intelligent, exact in every detail, earnest to bring the confidence of the young depositors and faithful in the discharge of every duty to them, and to the honorable incorporators who had for more than forty years so thoroughly appreciated his knowledge of affairs and his great personal integrity. He had daily happiness in his close association with many of New York's leading business citizens, and in often gathering in the bank parlor of enlightenment and large benevolence to discuss and further valued projects for the benefit of the art and charitable institutions and for the general welfare of the city. To all of which objects his heart was fully alive and responsive.

The earliest of all his associations after those of his military services was with this Society. Becoming a member in May, 1845, he entered with such alacrity and earnestness into the proceedings and purposes of the Society that he was made at the next annual election the Recording Secretary, an office to which, with a brief interruption and owing to business matters, he

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was re-elected in 1854, and has held until the day of his death. Never was more faithful or efficient officer in any institution. He gave his time, his knowledge and every energy to build up and nourish the Library, the collections and the activity of the great work as intended by its founders. Many of them he had personally known and consulted, and had gained their confidence equally with that of its patrons. He was ever on the alert to extend its influence in the community, and by his scrupulous neatness and exactness had so arranged the books and museum as to be in proper condition for exhibition. But at length so insufficient had become the size of the building that even his ingenuity had been perplexed, and with earnest zeal he joined in the appeal for larger quarters. He had been with the Society in its various earlier wanderings and in its gathering for funds for the present building; and again in quest of money for the site on Central Park West, and had hoped at least to see the foundation laid of the new structure.

Well do I remember his kindly welcome when he greeted me to office in 1887, or how strongly I leaned upon his wise counsel and advice to teach me the duties incumbent upon office, or in after years to direct discreetly any difficult questions. From his long experience he was familiar with the history of the institution, and could recall many interesting anecdotes of celebrated and distinguished men, who had visited the Library or had partaken of our hospitality on notable occasions. His interest in the welfare of the corporation was unbounded, and he had assisted in receiving most of the remarkable gifts of art, ancient and modern and of the other collections now prized and belonging to it.

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